

Live as children of light, for light produces every kind of goodness and righteousness and truth.

EPHESIANS 5:8B-9

Born Free

MIGUEL DULICK

Today's gospel, the healing of the man born blind, is a terrific story that includes many details. Notice that Jesus, who has his own agenda, "so that the works of God might be made visible through him," does not even wait for the man to ask to be healed. But the man is a willing subject, allowing mud and saliva to be smeared on his eyes, agreeing to go to Siloam and wash. And, he's a quick learner. At first, all he knows is "the man called Jesus" healed him. Soon, however, he's calling Jesus "a prophet." Then, as a "division" ("schism" in the original) opens among the authorities and even in his own family, he defends Jesus' divine calling when the Pharisees mock Jesus as a "sinner." Finally, expelled from the synagogue, the man finds Jesus waiting for him with the ultimate revelation: he sees before him the Son of Man, "and he worshiped him."

Now, maybe we weren't born blind, but I venture to say a lot of us are short-sighted. Do I "see the works of God"? Starting from "the man called Jesus," do I keep going forward in faith, defending Jesus when he is mocked by people, to a deeper, fuller reality than even my own family may not understand? All the way to adoration, worship, a total handing over of my whole self to the Son of Man? Or, as Thomas would later say, when his own eyes were opened, "My Lord and my God!" (John 20:28). ●



LEARN ABOUT
THE AUTHORS
OF OUR PARISH
COMMUNITY

Reflect

This week, I will pray for my eyes to be opened to something important for me to see.

ST. BARBARA PARISH

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St. Thomas More Site

302 Chestnut Street
Dalzell IL



Holy Trinity Site

Parish Office

212 S Main Street
PO BOX 159
Cherry IL

Adoration Room at STM Site

Open Daily from 9 am-6 pm

Confession Info

Saturday morning, alternating
between STM Site & HT Site
in the Confessional between
10:30 am-11:15am

Church Office Info

Pastor: Father Thaddeus Tran

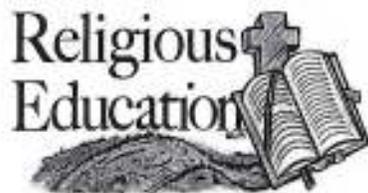
Pastoral Assistant: Melissa Pasillas

Office Hours at HT: Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 9am-1pm

Ongoing Parish Fundraising: STM Rav/Tort. Sale | call 815-252-2215 (leave name/phone #/order) \$9.00/bag

Emergency Number: 779-248-2164

Email: Melissahtc@outlook.com



CCD Classes

Sunday, March 15th — NO CCD Class for 6th-8th Grade
Confirmation Retreat March 14th at STM

Sunday, March 22th— K- 5th Grade CCD Class

St. Barbara Daily Mass Intentions for the Week of March 16, 2026

Monday	03/16			† No Mass
Tuesday	03/17	9:00 am	STM Site	† Tara Stone
Wednesday	03/18	5:30 pm	HT Site	† Sandra Carlson
Thursday	03/19	9:00 am	HT Site	† Yolanda Bouvier
		6:00 pm	HT Site / Holy Hour	
Friday	03/20	9:00 am	STM Site	† Mary Jane Jensen
		6:00 pm	Stations of the Cross / STM	

St. Barbara Mass Intentions for the weekend of March 21 - 22, 2026

Saturday	03/21	4:00 pm	St. Thomas More Site	† For the Parishioners
Sunday	03/22	9:00 am	Holy Trinity Site	† Michael Campbell

St. Joseph- Worthy Spouse Of Mary

(Feast Day: March 19)



St. Joseph, a model of faith, obedience, and quiet strength, exemplifies a life of service and dedication, inspiring us to trust in God's plan and care for those entrusted to our care.

We don't know much about him except what is mentioned in the Gospels. Joseph was the husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the foster-father of Jesus. Holy Scripture proclaims him as a "just man," and the Church has turned to Joseph for his patronage and protection. Pope Leo XIII in his encyclical *Quamquam Pluries* (On the Devotion to St. Joseph) in 1889 explains why we place so much trust in this saint:

"Thus in giving Joseph the Blessed Virgin as spouse, God appointed him to be not only her life's companion, the witness of her maidenhood, the protector of her honor, but also, by virtue of the conjugal tie, a participator in her sublime dignity. And Joseph shines among all mankind by the most august dignity, since by divine will, he was the guardian of the Son of God and reputed as His father among men. Hence it came about that the Word of God was humbly subject to Joseph, that He obeyed him, and that He rendered to him all those offices that children are bound to render to their parents."

One hundred years later Pope St. John Paul II echoes his predecessor in his 1989 Apostolic Exhortation *Redemptoris Custos* (Guardian of the Redeemer), hoping "that all may grow in devotion to the Patron of the Universal Church and in love for the Savior whom he served in such an exemplary manner ... In this way the whole Christian people not only will turn to St. Joseph with greater fervor and invoke his patronage with trust, but also will always keep before their eyes his humble, mature way of serving and of 'taking part' in the plan of salvation." St. Joseph is invoked as patron for many causes. He is the patron of the Universal Church. He is the patron of the dying because Jesus and Mary were at his death-bed. He is also the patron of fathers, of carpenters, and of social justice. Many religious orders and communities are placed under his patronage.

Jennifer Gregory Miller (from catholicculture.org)

Church Announcements

Holy Week & Easter Schedule

Holy week & Easter schedules are in the back of each church. Please don't forget to pick up a copy for yourself.

Holy Hour & Reconciliation

There will be a Holy Hour and Lenten confession on Thursday, March 19th at 6pm, which will take place at Holy Trinity Church site in Cherry. All parishioners are strongly urged to attend this special Holy Hour to worship the Eucharistic Christ and to be reconciled with God.

Easter Flowers

Easter Flower envelopes are now available at the back of each church. Please donate \$20 for each of the deceased family members that you would like to donate in remembrance of. Names will be listed in the bulletin. If you would like to donate to the Easter flower fund, any amount will be greatly appreciated.



Special Event

One of our talented parishioners, Christine Randazzo, will have an art exhibition at 2pm on March 28th at HT Hall. Interested members please come to this special event to enjoy her artistic skills; refreshments will be served. Donations are welcome.

Latest Offering's

March 8th Weekend

St. Barbara Parish

Total Collections:

\$2,673.00

Next Confessions

Confessions on

Sat. March 21st

10:30am-11:15am

STM in the Confessional

Dear Padre,

I am left-handed. Why doesn't the church allow the sign of the cross to be made left-handed?

A Catholic who is unable to make the sign of the cross with the right hand is certainly permitted to do so with the left. There is no rule against it. When Pope Saint John Paul II injured his right arm, he used his left hand to impart his blessing.

The sign of the cross is a sacramental, one of the symbols that identifies you as a Roman Catholic. Just like all such symbolic gestures, there is an expected uniformity. To use a secular example, at a University of Texas football game, fans of the Longhorns give the "hook-'em horns" sign. You wouldn't give the "thumbs-up" sign instead. It would be confusing.

It's true that at one time, the left hand was associated with evil. Jesus sends the goats to sit at his left and the sheep to his right. (See Matthew 25:33.) And, throughout the Scriptures, we read that Jesus sits at the right hand of God. (See Mark 16:19.) The word "sinister" is from the Latin *sinister*, meaning "left."

Left-handedness is no longer associated with evil. If you wish to make the sign of the cross with your left hand, you may. But do consider why you are doing it. Most left-handed people have no trouble using their right hand for many simple tasks. If your purpose is a bit rebellious, maybe realize that signifying unity with your brothers and sisters in Christ is more important. ●



ALFONSO CATONE

Fr. Thomas M. Santa, CSSR / DearPadre.org

Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to DearPadre.org to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.



MARCO ACCORICO EP / SHUTTERSTOCK

A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

Dear brothers and sisters, let us trustfully bring our ailments before Jesus, and also those of our loved ones; let us bring the pain of those who feel lost and without a way out. Let us cry out for them too, and we will be certain that the Lord will hear us.

GENERAL AUDIENCE, ROME, JUNE 11, 2025

Monday MARCH 16 <i>Lenten Weekday</i> Is 65:17–21 Jn 4:43–54	Thursday MARCH 19 <i>St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i> 2 Sm 7:4–5a, 12–14a, 16 Rom 4:13, 16–18, 22 Mt 1:16, 18–21, 24a or Lk 2:41–51a	Saturday MARCH 21 <i>Lenten Weekday</i> Jer 11:18–20 Jn 7:40–53
Tuesday MARCH 17 <i>Lenten Weekday</i> Ez 47:1–9, 12 Jn 5:1–16	Friday MARCH 20 <i>Lenten Weekday</i> Wis 2:1a, 12–22 Jn 7:1–2, 10, 25–30	Sunday MARCH 22 <i>Fifth Sunday of Lent</i> Ez 37:12–14 Rom 8:8–11 Jn 11:1–45 or 11:3–7, 17, 20–27, 33b–45
Wednesday MARCH 18 <i>Lenten Weekday</i> Is 49:8–15 Jn 5:17–30		